
THE 50 MHz DX BULLETIN

VOLUME #2

(APRIL 1991)

ISSUE #8

PUBLISHED BY: HARRY SCHOOLS KA3B, 1606 S. NEWKIRK STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19145 USA

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: U.S. & CANADA (FIRST CLASS) \$20.00 FOREIGN DX (AIR MAIL) \$25.00

The 50 MHz DX Bulletin is published 24 times a year as a service to 50 MHz enthusiasts worldwide. This bulletin may be quoted or reprinted provided that credit is given. The information contained in this issue is from sources that are believed to be accurate.

NORTH AMERICAN NEWS

FRENCH ST. MARTIN (FS) OPERATION PLANNED: The DX Bulletin which is published by Chod Harris VP2ML reports that a Japanese group will operate from the French side of St. Martin April 27 to May 4, 80-6 meters, including the new bands. Look for FS/JA1FUI, FS/JA1IFP, FS/JG1TCB, FS/JG1UZZ, FS/JL1RUC, FS/JP1FOS, FS/JH9MJY, and FS/NZ2Y. QSL home call, direct or via the bureau.

REPORT FROM OX3LX: Bo Christensen OZ1DUJ/OX3LX sends along his 6M operating schedule for spring/summer 1991. Bo says that this operating schedule is tentative and can only be used as a guide. Also, these are not DXpedition dates. He will be in Greenland working and will try to be QRV as much as possible.

DATE	GRID	ACTIVITY PER DAY	POWER	ANTENNA
APR 4 - MAY 7	GP80	2-10 hours	50 watts	5 element
MAY 7 - MAY 14	GP70	2-10 hours	50 watts	5 element
JUN 7 - JUN 22	GP38	2-10 hours	50 watts	5 element
JUN 25 - JUL 6	GQ30	4-10 hours	50 watts	5 element
JUL 8 - JUL 20	GQ12	2-14 hours	50 watts	dipole
AUG 21 - SEP 3	HP15	6-10 hours	50 watts	5 element
SEP 17 - SEP 26	GP52	5-10 hours	50 watts	dipole

REPORT FROM KM1E/C6A: Bill Wiseman KM1E sends along the following letter:

"I have been back from the Bahamas for almost a month now and had the best of intentions to send you a report long before this - but unfortunately I have been paying the price of a three month absence with a plethora of matters to be attended to. This year my stay was very disappointing. I arrived on December 16, 1990 and did not hear a 6M signal until January 12, 1991 when there was a very brief opening (F2?) to Oregon. I worked K7RWT in CN85 at 1729Z. I also heard N7DB but he could not hear me well enough for a QSO. The following day, January 13, I heard the YV4AB beacon at 1840Z - presumably sporadic-E. On January 19th I worked KJ4E in EL98 at 1730Z (Tropo?). After that, there was nothing before leaving for Florida on January 23rd. During my absence until returning to the Bahamas on February 3, there was a period of good openings from South Florida in many directions, all of which I missed. I did not hear another signal until February 24 when I heard GM0EWX calling CQ on 50.110 at 1518Z. Unfortunately, he did not hear my response. However, a little later in the same day I had a good sporadic-E opening to W4, W8, and W9. I made a total of 25 QSO's into these areas between 1555 and 1556Z and one into W5 (EM25). The next day, February 25, there was another sporadic-E opening between 1442 and 1527Z - this time into W1, W2, W3, and the northerly part of W4. Only eight QSO's resulted but in the middle of the opening I suddenly heard the GB3NRI beacon very strong at 559 from Northern Ireland - obviously F2, but with sporadic-E hook-up? February 25 was the last day I heard any 6M signals before closing down my station on March 10, 1991. My equipment is an FT-680 plus a 60 watt amplifier feeding a 4 element yagi on a 12 foot boom, 25 feet above ground on the waters edge with no obstructions in any direction. Altogether it was a very frustrating and disappointing experience. The previous year I had several openings to LU and CX starting in early March as well as openings to HC8 and VR6 - but this year nothing comparable. I plan to be back next winter and will let you know the dates when firm. In the meantime I am back in FN53 and still have yet to hear a signal since returning! Such are the vagaries and challenges of 6 meters."

QSL INFO: Bill Wiseman KM1E, P.O. Box 120, Woolwich, Maine 04579

W7ABX TO ACTIVATE CN71: The following letter was received from Joe Tasker W7ABX:

"Still plugging away here on 6M from DMO9 - chasing grids and hoping for a better E season than last summer! I was in Curry County, Oregon (CN71) last June and the band never opened - will be there again in mid-May this year for a week."

QSL INFO: Joe Tasker W7ABX, 6190 Rams Horn Road, Sparks, Nevada 89433

17TH ANNUAL EASTERN VHF/UHF/SHF CONFERENCE: The 17th Annual Eastern VHF/UHF/SHF Conference will be held May 17-19, 1991 at Rivier College, Nashua, New Hampshire. Rivier College is located near U.S. Route 3, exit 4, a short distance north of the Massachusetts border. Friday night's activity is an informal social gathering in the dormitory lounge, with refreshments provided by the Northeast VHF Association. All day Saturday there will be technical talks by well-known VHF'ers and "rap sessions" for each of the VHF/UHF bands. On Saturday evening there will be a buffet-style banquet, followed by noise figure measurements and additional informal social activities. Sunday morning there will be antenna gain measurements (220 MHz through 2304 MHz) weather permitting, and an informal swap-fest in the parking lot. Preregistration prior to May 13 is \$23.00. Registration at the door will be \$30.00. The buffet-style banquet on Saturday night will cost \$20.00, also payable in advance. The registration chairman is David Knight KALDT, 15 Oakdale Avenue, Nashua, N.H. 03062.

(Continued on page 2)

Those who have attended in recent years will soon be receiving a preregistration packet. Otherwise, please contact WLEJ, KALDT, or WLGXT for a registration form. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Again, housing will be available in dormitory rooms at the college. The rates are \$30.00 single, \$50.00 double with twin beds per night, payable by May 13th. Coffee, pastry, and juice will be available for those staying in the dorm rooms. There are numerous hotels and motels nearby for those wishing to make their own arrangements. Many have special weekend rates, if you ask. The 17th Eastern VHF/UHF/SHF Conference is sponsored by the Eastern VHF Society and the NEVHF Association. The conference chairman is Thomas Kirby WLEJ, ably assisted by volunteers from the New England VHF community. NOTE: For those who choose to attend only the Sunday swap-fest and antenna gain measurement, registration will be \$5.00 (to help defray the cost of the conference's liability insurance and use of the college's facilities).
(Thx Northeast VHF News, Volume 20, Number 2, January-February 1991)

REPORT FROM WA5QCP: Richard Kennedy WA5QCP (TX DM61) sends along the following letter:

"March seems to have set some sort of record regarding major solar flare activity. My records show 35 major solar flares as reported by WWV. This appears to be the highest level since Cycle 19 and I don't have the data for that one. The previously monthly high of 22 major flares was in January 1989. Cycle 21 had a high of 20 major flares in June 1982. The highest my records show for Cycle 20 is 13 major flares in July 1974. These could be the highest levels before 1972 but I don't have the data for those years.

Although the solar flux didn't rise above 276, it was above 200 for all but the last four days, with a minimum of 191. The peak of 276 was higher than for any month of 1990, except August. The minimum of 191 was the highest minimum since November 1989. The average solar flux was 229 which makes it the fourth highest monthly average of Cycle 22. Three of the five highest monthly solar flux averages of this cycle have been during 1991.

Beginning this year, the NGDC has changed the format of their Solar Indices Bulletin to include revised flux values for the previous month. They also have some new commentary which states that the highest solar flux ever observed since observations began in February 1947 was 457.0 on April 7, 1947. The lowest solar flux was 62.6 on November 3, 1954. I don't know what levels were reached in Cycle 19 but the highest in my records was 383 on November 10, 1979 and the second highest was 367 on January 30, 1991.

I hope this cycle does have a second peak. The solar flux seems to be heading that way but the sunspot number is not yet. I am presently having to put in a lot of time at work so I can't be on the air. I hope to be on the air this November if conditions are good."

QSL INFO: Richard Kennedy WA5QCP, 5633 Hemmingway Drive, El Paso, Texas 79924

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND "ABEGWEIT" AWARD: Russ Patrick W7IDZ has sent me information on an award which he has obtained which can be endorsed for 6M operation - the "Abegweit Award." The details are as follows:

All VY2's, VE1's, VO1's & VO2's must work all three (3) Prince Edward Island Counties to qualify.

The rest of Canada, the United States, and Mexico must work any three (3) Prince Edward Island stations.

DX stations must work any two (2) Prince Edward Island stations.

**The three (3) Prince Edward Island Counties are: Prince, Queens, and Kings.

Any contacts made after January 1, 1960 will count. Submit log info certified by two other amateurs. QSL cards must be in possession to qualify. Send \$5.00 or 10 IRC's to: Award Manager, P.O. Box 1232, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada C1A 7M8

ALL 6M DXCC PLAQUES ARE CLAIMED: All ten (10) plaques that were awarded by the ARRL for DXCC on 6M have been claimed. The recipients (in order) are: 1. K5FF 2. W5FF 3. VE1YX 4. JA4MEM 5. JA1BK 6. W2CAP/1 7. K5CM 8. K8WKZ 9. K4CKS 10. WA1OUB. Congratulations to all! Who will be the first to reach the 125 plateau?

A F R I C A N N E W S

REPORT FROM 7Q7JA: Yoshitaka "Yoshi" Kawaku 7Q7JA sends along the following letter:

"PLEASE, if you have a chance to work 7Q7JA, I DO NOT NEED YOUR GRID SQUARE, QTH, OR NAME!!! Six meter conditions are often short-lived, therefore, I WANT CALLSIGNS AND RST ONLY!!! (ie: DXpedition-type QSO's). Unfortunately, European stations cause me to slow down my QSO rate because of their insistence on getting grid squares. Presented below is an example of the type of QSO's I wish to have:

DE 7Q7JA QZ USA BK
BK KA3B UR 559 BK
BK 7Q7JA DE KA3B QSL 559 TU UR 559 BK
BK KA3B DE 7Q7JA QSL 559 TU 73
QZ USA DE 7Q7JA BK

My rig for 6M is a Kenwood TS680S with a 5 element yagi at 25 feet and a 2SC-2290X1 amplifier at 70 watts output. I usually have a beacon running on 50.079 MHz in the USB mode by endless cassette tape QSO 28.885 MHz. QSL's for 6M ONLY can be sent to: Yoshi Kawaku, Private Bag 28 c/o Mana Blantyre, Malawi, Africa (or) via my home callsign JLI1HE: 2-10, Yamate, Hannou, Saitama 357, Japan. My QSL Manager JH8BKL is only for HF QSO's.

NOTE: I have received word from another source that Yoshi's license will expire in May 1991 and he will return to JA during July 1991. Since his days are numbered as 7Q7JA, he strongly suggests that the above QSO method be followed as he wants to QSO as many stations as possible during his remaining days on the band.

In a related matter, Shel NI6E/KH6 sent along the following a few months back but it seems fitting to print at this time: "I recently heard 7Q7JA on 28.885 requesting strongly that 6M DX'ers NOT try to swap grid squares during DX openings. Since many opening are exceedingly brief, he can make many more contacts if people don't ask for his grid, QSL info, etc. I heartily endorse this comment, and I would add that I have been plagued by such time-wasters during my rare openings into the Northeast U.S., not to mention the W1 lids who worked me more than once during a single opening, just so they could have the thrill of triumph over the poor guys who still needed KH6, despite my clear request that people not call me unless they need KH6 for WAS/WAC/DXCC."

ZS8MI BEACON: A beacon, callsign ZS8MI, will be activated very soon from Marion Island on 50.012 MHz. Power will be 12 watts output and the locator KE83. The beacon was built by Mike G3JVL and airmail postage from the UK to South Africa was funded by the UK Six Metre Group. (Thx Ted Collins G4UPS)

KA3B/CP6 DX-PEDITION RESULTS (APRIL 1991): The KA3B/CP6 Bolivian DX-pedition wasn't as fruitful as I had hoped. Murphy struck early in the form of a broken HD73 rotator and severe TVI. Then, on a day when the scatter path to the U.S. seemed good, high winds from an approaching front caused very high static levels from nearby power lines. In lieu of these shortfalls (and sub-par band conditions for most of my stay) I managed to work 90 different stations in 22 countries. I also attained WAC within the first two days of operation.

I am sure many of you heard me on 28.885 MHz during my stay. One thing I mentioned on the liaison frequency several times is the geographical ignorance of some operators. Many of them fail to realize the vastness of the South American Continent! On a few occasions some of the southern LU's were being heard in the States. About this time, you could hear some questions arise on 28.885 as to why I wasn't being heard up north. The same thing would occur when PY5CC was working into various areas. If you take the time to look closely at a map of the world, you will see that the length of Argentina alone is the equivalent of the mileage from the Florida Keys to Newfoundland...quite a distance! PY5CC was located southeast of me and our distance apart is about the same as compared to the distance between Miami, Florida and Kansas City, Missouri! So as you can see, I have to chuckle when certain people (after hearing a single LU come popping through the noise), expect the entire South American Continent to follow shortly thereafter!

The operation itself was quite an eye opener for me. It was my first time operating south of the Equator and I had my first taste of 6M long-path. During a Mediterranean opening on April 5th, I tuned across the band and found Tim V73AT in the Marshall Islands pounding in via long-path at S-7 on SSB. We chatted for about 5 minutes and then I found 4 JR6's from Okinawa and 2 JA's from the JA1 call area. About 45 minutes later I tuned by Tim's frequency and he was still there at a solid S-7 calling CQ! That was probably the highlight of my operation. The band never did open to Northern Europe, nor did I work many in the United States. The anticipated wide-spread openings to Japan never did materialize either. Nonetheless, I had a wonderful time and would like to take this opportunity to thank both Glenn and Judy Stewart (CP6BY & CP6AK) for their wonderful accommodations and hospitality. The following different stations were worked by KA3B/CP6:

CE8ABF, CX8BE, EA3DZG, F1FHI, F5QT, F9DI, FC1BYM, FC1EAN, FC1FIH, FC1JG, FD1GTR, FE1JGA, FM5WD, FO5NK, HC1BI, IQAMU, IQCUT, IQFDH, IQXGR, I2MUT, I4BXN, I4CIL, I4XCC, I5CTE, I5MXX, I7CSB, IK5EHR, IK8FPD, IK8MKK, IKØOKY, ISØVCY, JE1BMJ, JF1RRW, JR6HI, JR6VSP, JR6WPT, JR6WXY, K2RTH/4, N4EJV, N4EJW, N4TAE, W4FNR, W4GJO, W4OO, W4OWJ, W5HUQ, WB4OOJ, WB4OSN, KB6/N16E, KP4EOR, NP4NP, LU3EW, LU3EX, LU3DGA, LU4EBC, LU6DLB, LU7DZ, LU7MEC, LU7VB, LU8AHW, LU8DIO, LU8EEM, LU8MBL, LU8YYO, LU9AEA, LU9MA, PU2WBS, PY2BBL, PY2DJC, PY2DSC, PY2ZS, PY5AQ, PY5CC, PY5GK, PY5ZBU, SV1AB, SV1DH, SV1EN, TL8MB, TR8CA, V73AT, YV4DDK, ZP6XDW, 9H1BT, 9H1OG, 9H1GB, 9H1IS, 9H5AB, 9H5EE, 9H5ET

CP6BY / CP6AK (FH82): Glenn and Judy Stewart are now in possession of a complete 6M station. They are both working as missionaries in Santa Cruz, Bolivia and plan to be there for an extended period of time. They will keep the 6M rig on at all times while in the shack monitoring 50.110 MHz. They are also aware of the .88 liaison frequency as well. IRC's are not readily accepted by the postal authorities in Bolivia so it is best to send along \$1.00 for a return QSL.

QSL INFO: Glenn & Judy Stewart, Casilla 2010, Santa Cruz, Bolivia

PERU ACTIVITY UPDATE: The following letter was sent along by Pat Rose W5OZI:

"OABABT has been into this area frequently during the last few weeks on 6M. Darrol told me that he will be leaving Peru on the first of June for a one-year stay in the USA. He said that he will be returning to Peru a year later. Lucho (OA8QC) has returned to his home QTH (LU8BF) in Argentina, so that leaves the only other OA whom I have worked on 6, Willi OA4ZV, as active. I have not heard him on recently, so presume he is not very active. So, it appears that Peru will be hard to find on 6M for at least a year until OABABT is QRV again. His stateside mailing address is: Darrol Lockhart, Route 1 Box 330, Goshen, New York 10924.

REPORT FROM PY5CC: Peter Zoch Sprengel PY5CC sent me an impressive list of the DX he worked during the month of March. Unfortunately, the list is so huge it would be impossible to print at this time. In only 15 months on the band, Peter has worked 82 countries. (I worked Peter as KA3B/CP6 on April 6th and I was his 90th country on the band...KA3B). New countries logged by Peter during March included ZC4MK, GD3AHV, ON4KST, GW4EAI, GM4DGT, GI4OPH, ZF8AA, 4X1IF, GJ4ICD, 9L1US, HZ1AB, 9Q5EE, XQØX, ZS9H, OE6LOG, LX1SI, V73AT, 7Q7JA, and DL9RM. Peter notes that during his March 9th opening to Europe he worked over 60 stations during 20 minutes of propagation, which started at 1217Z. On March 10th during an opening to the U.S., he worked over 200 stations in all call areas (except W6) during 1 hour and 30 minutes of propagation. Peter also says that he has a keyer running on 50.095 MHz when he's not at home. His grid locator is GG54RE.

QSL INFO: Peter Zoch Sprengel, P.O. Box 07, Matinhos - PR 83.260, Brazil

REPORT FROM ZP6XDW: Doug Woolley ZP6XDW also sent me an impressive list of DX worked during the fantasti propagation which took place during early March. On March 10th Doug had his first European opening making contacts into 9H, DL, F, G, GJ, GW, I, LX, ON, OZ, PA, SM, and SV. March 11th saw Doug's first New England opening with the following stations being worked: 1527Z W3EP, 1530Z K1IKN, and 1535Z K1TOL.

QSL INFO: Doug Woolley, P.O. Box 73, Caacupe, Paraguay

A S I A N N E W S

4X1IF ISRAEL: Ralph 4X1IF left Israel for a six-month overseas assignment on March 15th. He hopes to fit in at least a week of home-leave around about the 8th of June to take advantage of a small portion of the forthcoming sporadic-E season. It is due to the dedication of Ralph that Extra Class amateurs in Israel now have access to the 6M band - but to date no one else in the country has shown any interest in operating on the band! Let's hope Ralph can persuade someone to operate from Israel during his absence. Daniel 4X6IF, Ralph's son, has informed me that he will try to get on the band as often as possible, especially during weekends. (Thx Ted Collins G4UPS)

UL7 KAZAKHSTAN: Word was circulating on 28.885 MHz that UL7GOC is now QRV legally on 6M with 20 watts into a 9 element yagi. Also, UL7GM is said to be expecting to have his 6M license in about 2 weeks.

TF3SIX BEACON: The TF3SIX beacon was reported on March 12th as being off the air due to damage to the antenna system caused by severe storms.

OH9 BEACON: A new beacon from the OH9 call area of Finland will soon be on the air using 50.067 MHz. The locator is KP36OI and the power will be around 50 watts to an omni-directional antenna. Further details, starting date, etc, will be circulated when I have the information. (Tnx G4UPS)

IMØ/IK2GSO SARDINIA EXPEDITION: Enrico IK2GSO will activate Isle Di Sant' Antioco (JM48DE) for two weeks (June 15th to June 29th). There may also be one-day operations from Isle Di San Pietro (JM49) and Isle La Vacca (JM48). He will be using 25 watts output and a 4 element yagi. (Tnx G6HCV)

FIRST EUROPEAN/SRI LANKA 6M CONTACT: Possibly the first ever European/Sri Lanka 6M QSO took place on March 29th at 0942Z when IK8DYD worked 4S7AVR. (Tnx G4UPS)

REPORT FROM GJ4ICD: Geoff Brown GJ4ICD reports that on March 3rd at 0920Z he turned on his 6M equipment only to find VK6PA at 57-to-59 (with no TV noticed from VK!). At 0924Z then came JA4MBM at 559 and a ton of contacts with all JA call areas. When the JA's faded at 1028Z the following stations were worked: KEØSC/DU3, KG6UH/DUL, V73AT, and KG6DX at S9+++ (until 1145Z with the beam at one point at 150°!!). KH4AF was 539 but Geoff wasn't sure if the QSO was complete due to QRM. Then from the south came TL8MB, TR8CA, G8MFE/5N2, TU's, and backscatter from G, SV, PA, ON, F, I, etc. Other backscatter contacts included 6W1QC @ 180°, PZ1AP @ 180°, and VE1YX @ 200°. WAC was completed in 3 hours, 6 minutes! Geoff says that this opening offered the best DX ever heard on 50 MHz. The WAC stations worked were VK6PA, JA4MBM, TR8CA, SV1OE, PZ1AP, and VE1YX. It just so happens that on this date last year (3-3-90), the band was also open to JA for Geoff with big pile-ups!

On March 6th Geoff turned on his equipment at 0845Z. JA's were heard calling CQ so Geoff went at it again filling up page after page in his logbook. The opening lasted until 1020Z with JD1BBE being the best DX and a new country. The beam heading was 110° for JA and Geoff notes that it was hard going with endless piles of JA's calling. He couldn't work split as there was so much happening around the band. VK6's were also on the band, along with KG6UH/DUL. At 1100Z KG6DX was worked at S9+++ on SSB and after this QSO SM3BITU reported to Geoff that a strong AURORA was in progress. At this time, KG6DX was on the correct beam heading of 30°/40°!!

REPORT FROM G6HCV: Byron Fletcher G6HCV has taken over the UK 6M Group's Contest and Awards Managers job for the next 12 months. Any information regarding the rules, application forms, check sheets, etc, can be obtained from Byron with a self-addressed envelope and an IRC or \$1.00. (See address below)

U.K. SIX METRE GROUP: Presented below are the officers for the U.K. Six Metre Group as of March 24, 1991:

CHAIRMAN: Geoff Brown GJ4ICD, The TV Shop, Belmont Road, St. Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands
Telephone (office hours): 0534 77067 (evenings): 0534 67450

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Alan Wright GW3LDH, 6 Cwm Eithin, Wrexham, Clwyd, Wales LL12 8JY
Telephone: 0978 359937

TREASURER: Peter Turner G4IIL, Flat 6, 132 Marine Parade, Brighton, Sussex, England BN1 1DE
Telephone: 0273 607737

SECRETARY: Ted Collins G4UPS, 27 Parklands, Hemyock, Devon, England EX15 3RY
Telephone: 0823 680558

EDITOR: John Livesey GØJUL, 9 Croft Bank, Penwortham, Preston, Lancs, England PR1 9BH
Telephone: 0772 744454

CONTESTS/AWARDS: Byron Fletcher G6HCV, 2 Slade Gardens, Codsall, Staffordshire, England WV8 1BJ
Telephone: 0907 44532

SIX NEWS INFO: Neil Carr GØJHC, 43 Moorhay Drive, Penwortham, Preston, Lancs, England PR10SS
Telephone: 0772 742710

Roland Jeffery GØGZI, 167 Delamere Street, Over, Winsford, Cheshire, England CW7 2LY
Telephone: 0606 554178

Chris Gare G3WOS, Old White Lodge, 183 Sycamore Road, Farnborough, Hants, England GU14 6RF
Telephone: 0252 520354

THE 50 MHz DX BULLETIN

HARRY A. SCHOOLS KA3B

1606 SOUTH NEWKIRK STREET

PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19145

U.S.A.

TO: